Case 9:19-cv-00073-DLC Document 4 Filed 04/26/19 Page 1 of 3

Peg L. Allison Flathead County District Court STATE OF MONTANA By: Cassandra Loveless

1	Alexander (Zander) Blewett, III	DV-15-2019-0000269-PI	
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5	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
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8	MONTANA ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, FLATHEAD COUNTY		
9	************		
10	AUSTIN HILDE,	Cause No. DV-15-2019-0000269-PI	
11	Plaintiff,	Hon. Judge Robert B Allison	
12	V.	COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND	
13	STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.,)	
14	Defendant.)	
15	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
16	For his claims against Defendant, Plaintiff states and alleges as follows:		
17	1. Plaintiff, Austin Hilde, is a resident of Kalispell, Flathead County, Montana.		
18	2. Defendant, Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. (Sturm Ruger), is a company engaged in the		
19	business of selling firearms.		
20	3. Sturm Ruger designed and ma	anufactured a Ruger M-77 Rifle, Serial Number: 71-	
21	73366, which rifle was improperly designed and was in a defective condition unreasonably		
22	dangerous to a user or consumer.		

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safety before ejecting a shell.

Sturm Ruger designed and manufactured this rifle in such a way that when the safety was disengaged, the rifle would unexpectedly fire by a slight force applied to the pistol grip without ever engaging the trigger.

This rifle was designed in such a way that the user was required to disengage the

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1	6.	Sturm Ruger also designed and manufactured this rifle in such a way that the
2	trigger overtravel set screw can move too readily and can cause the rifle to fire unexpectedly with	
3	the safety off.	Ruger recognized this defect and sent a notice to owners of Ruger M-77 bolt
4	action rifles admitting this defect.	
5	7.	On November 22, 2017, the owner of this rifle, Wayne Morgan, disengaged the
6	safety to eject	a round from the rifle, when he slipped, grabbed the pistol grip, and the rifle
7	discharged, str	riking Austin Hilden and causing him grievous personal injury.
8	8.	Sturm Ruger is liable for all the physical harm caused to Austin Hilde in an
9	amount to be 1	proven at the time of trial.
10	9.	Sturm Ruger is guilty of actual malice, pursuant to § 27-1-221, MCA, and should
11	be assessed pu	unitive damages by the jury.
12	WHER	REFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant Sturm Ruger as follows:
13	1.	For all of his compensatory damages to be proven at the time of trial.
14	2.	For punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury.
15	3.	For his costs and disbursements incurred.
16	DATE	D this 29 th day of March, 2019.
17		HOYT & BLEWETT PLLC
18		Dry /a/ Alayandar Playvott III
19		By: /s/ Alexander Blewett, III Alexander (Zander) Blewett III P.O. Box 2807
20		Great Falls, MT 59403-2807
21		Attorneys for Plaintiff
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1	JURY DEMAND
2	Plaintiff demands that all issues be tried before a jury.
3	DATED this 29 th day of March, 2019.
4	HOYT & BLEWETT PLLC
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6	By: /s/ Alexander Blewett, III Alexander (Zander) Blewett III P.O. Box 2807
7	F.O. Box 2807 Great Falls, MT 59403-2807
8	Attorneys for Plaintiff
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